UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/623
9 July 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 30 JUNE 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw to your attention the statement issued on 25 June 1998 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Cambodia (copies of which are annexed hereto in English and in French).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Stephen GOMERSALL
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom to the United Nations

98-19979 (E) 090798 090798

/...

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued in Brussels on 25 June 1998 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Cambodia

The European Union places great importance on free and fair elections in Cambodia on 26 July 1998. It has demonstrated its commitment to democracy in Cambodia with an eleven million dollar package of electoral assistance.

Much of that assistance has focused on creating the conditions under which free and fair elections will be possible. The Union is encouraged by the successful conclusion of the European Union-funded voter registration programme and by the peaceful campaigning of political parties throughout the country.

Now, at the start of the official campaign period, the European Union urges the Cambodian Government to continue to improve the situation by further promoting a political climate conducive to free and fair elections. It is particularly concerned at the extrajudicial killings and other human rights abuses and urges the Cambodian Government to investigate these crimes as a matter of priority and to bring those responsible to justice. The European Union further encourages the Cambodian Government to prevent any form of political intimidation, violence or malpractice in the election process and to ensure that opposition leaders and their parties are given fair access to the media.

The European Union strongly urges the National Election Commission to act at all times in an independent manner and actively to promote voter education emphasizing in particular the secrecy of voting, and to reinforce confidence in the integrity of the ballot process.

The European Union encourages all political parties, for their part, to work together to resolve outstanding issues. The Union places great importance on the full participation of all political parties in the elections. The European Union has taken note with appreciation of the statement of His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk that all Cambodians should vote according to their personal preferences.

The European Union will be sending a team of more than one hundred short-term election monitors to supplement the team of long-term monitors already in Cambodia. The Union is confident that this team, working closely with the United Nations and with monitors from other countries and organizations will be able to assess the freedom and fairness of the 26 July elections. The Union attaches the utmost importance to the security of all international observers. It is the responsibility of the Royal Cambodian Government to ensure the safety of all international observers at all times during their mandate.

The European Union believes that successful elections would mark an important step in Cambodia's political and economic development.

The countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic and Cyprus, associated to the European Union and the European Free Trade Association countries, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.